

*84. *E. taurus* (Evans). I have a ♀ of both *E. thrax* and *E. taurus* both taken indoors at dusk at Butterworth where they are by no means uncommon. One or other, probably both, are certainly present on Penang Island. *E. taurus* was separated from *thrax* by Brigadier Evans in 1941. The genitalia of the ♂♂ differ considerably though the ♀♀ are practically indistinguishable.

E. thrax. ♀ F. W. apex acute, termen straight, F. W. vein 1 is equal to vein 7 of H. W.

E. taurus. ♀ F. W. apex rounded, termen slightly convex. F. W. vein 1 shorter than vein 7 of H. W.

85. *Hidari irava* (Mre.) R. both on Penang and mainland. Rather variable in colour. Like *Erionota* this insect is attracted by light though it seems to fly by day more frequently than *Erionota*.

86. *Padraona mæssoides* (Btlr.) C. everywhere.

87. *Baoris conjuncta javana* (Mab.) Fairly common on mainland though I failed to find it on Penang Island.

NOTES ON BIRDS COLLECTED AND SEEN IN PERSIA,

1935 to 1945.

BY

A. C. TROTT.

The following notes relate to birds collected by, or seen by me during the period 1935 to 1945 in Persia. My usual place of residence has been Tehran, the capital, but I have also travelled to other parts of the country. I have also incorporated a few reports from friends when I felt sure that they knew the bird concerned: and some notes left to me by Mr. Brotherston, who spent some months as an officer in the south of Persia, at Ardekan, and at Kazvin, have also been inserted. For the identification of specimens I am indebted to the Natural History Museum. I have tried to include all the birds I saw or collected: one or two of the very common birds, e.g. the mallard, have not been included as I never secured specimens and did not actually note the bird on any particular date. The expression 'Lar valley' in which I obtained a number of birds is nothing to do with the town of Lar in the province of Fars in South Persia: it refers to the valley in the Elburz range which leads towards Demavend, and lies 30 miles north east of Tehran.

Corvus corax Linnaeus. Raven.

Ravens are often seen near Tehran: I have a note of a pair seen east of Tehran on the 28th Feb. Many fine ravens were seen in the Siah Palās valley (which leads into the Lar, on the Caspian side of the Elburz watershed) at an altitude of 8,000 ft., at the end of July.

Corvus cornix cornix Linnaeus. Hooded Crow.

The hooded crow is one of the commonest birds of Tehran: the Tehranis say that the white of the egg is good as an eye-salve. They are fond of nesting in high plane-trees, which abound at Tehran.

Corvus cornix ? sharpii Oates. Sharpe's Crow.

Seen between Resht and Masuleh in Gilan, March.

Corvus frugilegus frugilegus Linnaeus. Rook.

Innumerable rooks are to be seen at Tehran throughout the winter.

Pica pica bactriana Bonaparte. Magpie.

These resident and ubiquitous birds certainly go up as far as 9,000 ft. as I saw one at the top of the Tirak pass above Mubarakabad on the 28th July. It sometimes flies about in the summer (e.g. at Avcheh village in August) making its curious call, which sounds like 'ker-plonk'.

Pyrhcorax pyrrhcorax pyrrhcorax (Linnaeus). Red-billed Chough.

I saw some of these birds at Shiraz in the winter: the local people said they were good to eat. I sent home a skin from north of Tehran (Elburz foothills) in January. On the 28th July I saw a colony of these choughs at 7,000 ft. on the Tirak pass leading from Mubarakabad to Siah-Palás and the Lar valley. The young birds which had evidently recently been hatched were making a curious squeaking noise.

Sturnus vulgaris caucasicus Lorenz. Starling.

1 ♀ Tehran. Feb. 2.

1 ♂ near Gulhek. juv. March 15.

I noted huge flocks of starlings near Robat Kerim on the 14th November. They breed at Gulhek: I saw some there on the 10th June and young ones on the 12th July: they were nesting in walnut trees. I also saw some at a village near Hamadan on March 30th, and near the Assadabad pass on August 9th.

Pastor roseus (Linnaeus). Rose-coloured Starling.

1 ♀ Surkh Hissar, 10 miles east of Tehran. May 14.

1 ♂ Village Bábá-Salmán, 20 miles S.W. of Tehran. June 25.

These birds evidently arrived in the Tehran area in some numbers between the 7th and the 14th May: the one I shot on the latter date was with several others in a tree. The second one was one of a flock of four, but many more were seen near by. The local people call this bird *sávi-i-ablaq*, as distinct from the simple *sár* which means the common starling. The rosy pastor is the bird which the Persians say can be so useful in getting rid of locusts: according to the well-known fable anyone who has a plague of locusts has to travel to a certain well at Qazvin and get from it a bottle of water: he must then take the bottle to the place where the locusts are and break it on the ground, when rosy pastors will appear by magic and eat up the locusts. I saw no young, and did not see any after June 14.

Oriolus oriolus oriolus (Linnaeus). Golden Oriole.

I shot a pair of orioles at Tehran on the 20th May. They are very common birds at Gulhek in the summer from June to September. On the 30th June a pair were seen nesting at Tajrish, 10 m. north of Tehran.

Coccothraustes coccothraustes coccothraustes (Linnaeus) Hawfinch.

1 ♀ Tehran Legation. Jan. 16.

1 ♂ Gulhek, north of Tehran. Feb. 2.

The earliest date on which I saw hawfinches was Jan. 4th, and the latest Feb. 23rd, at Gulhek. Their visits to Tehran seem to be irregular, for in some years I never saw any, though I was on the watch for them.

Chloris chloris (Linnaeus). Greenfinch.

1 ? Gulhek. Feb.

Shot on a branch of a plane tree: consorting with siskins.

Carduelis carduelis loudoni Zarudny. Goldfinch.

1 ♂ near Gulhek. Feb. 16.

Goldfinch are very common at Tehran in February and March: my earnest record of them is a flock on a tree in the Legation garden on Jan. 15th: and my last a big flock on the golf-course, Tehran, on the 30th March. Mr. Brotherston saw some at Kazvin on June 20th.

Carduelis cannabina bella (= *fringillirostris* Bp. & Scl.) Linnet.

1 ♀ Lar valley, near Deli Chai camp. July 14.

1 ♀ same place. July 14.

1 ♂ same place July 15. One of a pair.

These linnets were flitting about on low bushes and appeared to have just arrived. They were consorting with grosbeaks (*Carpodacus*). I saw a pair on a hillside near Safid-áb, at an altitude of about 9,000 ft., on the 6th August.

Spinus spinus (Linnaeus). Siskin.

1 ♀ Gulhek. Feb. 16

Flocks of siskins were sometimes to be seen on the foothills north of Tehran in February and March.

Metaponia pusilla (Pallas). Gold-fronted Finch.

1 ♂ near Chihil Cheshmeh spring, 7,000 ft. Aug. 4. Testes v. large.

1 ♂ same place. July 13. Testes v. large.

I saw this fine little bird continually, flying near the spring: it was very bold and tame: no females were found, nor a nest, but I feel sure it must be breeding in the rocks near Chihil Cheshmeh in the Lar Valley.

Rhodopechys sanguinea sanguinea (Gould). Crimson-winged Finch.

1 ♂ near Chihil Cheshmeh spring in Lar valley. July 13.

1 ♀ same place: drinking in the spring. Aug. 4.

I saw the bird once more at the spring on the 5th August: and also one which settled near the river, evidently making for the spring. It was not so common as the Gold-fronted Finch but the red patches on breast and wing made it very conspicuous and remarkable.

Carpodacus erythrinus roseatus (Hodgson). Scarlet Rose-finch or Grosbeak.

1 ♀ Deli Chai camp in Lar Valley. July 10.

1 ♂ same place. Organs not large. Very common. July 14.

1 ♂ Chihil Cheshmeh, near the spring: very conspicuous on umbellifers. Making characteristic call or churr. Aug. 3. Testes large.

1 ♀ same place. Very common. Aug. 3.

These birds were calling to one another, especially in the evening and were, I feel sure, breeding. The call was a sort of plaintive combination of *churr* and *peep* with the note rising at the end: this monotonous single call went on for a long time.

Fringilla coelebs subsp.? Chaffinch.

1 ♀ Gulhek. Feb. 12.

The chaffinch is common round Tehran from November to February: flocks of 20 or 30 are often seen in the Legation feeding on grass during that period. Mr. Brotherston saw some at Ardekan on Dec. 18. On the 4th January I watched chaffinches feeding on the seeds of catalpa trees in the Legation: they were picking the seeds out of the old pods which remained on the trees. I saw flocks of them between Resht and Masuleh, in Gilan, on March 11.

Fringilla montifringilla Linnaeus. Brambling.

1 ? Near Gulhek. March.

I saw a brambling in the Legation garden on the 16th Jan.: another a few miles north in February, and the last one about the middle of March. I also saw one in Gilan, in the jungle between Resht and Masuleh, on the 11th March.

Montifringilla nivalis alpicola (Pallas). Snow Finch.

- 1 ♀ Chihil Cheshmeh spring. July 13.
1 ♂ same place. Aug. 3. Testes small.

Flocks of about 40 snow finches were continually doing evolutions in perfect timing, all wheeling at the same instant and then all perching on the rocks, round the spring in the Lar valley. Some birds had a white spot under the chin. I believe that they were breeding in that valley though I found no nests.

Petronia petronia exiguus (Hellmayr). Rock Sparrow.

- 1 ♂ Chihil Cheshmeh spring. Lar valley. July 13.
This was the only time I noted this bird: it was drinking at the spring.

Passer domesticus ? biblicus Hartert. House Sparrow.

- 2 ♂ ♀ Gulhek. 5,000 ft. March 15.
House sparrows were not common at Tehran or in the neighbourhood. I noticed a good many at Bushire in December, and at Ahwaz on the 17th February: also at Sâdeghabad near Hamadan on the 30th March. Mr. Brotherston saw some at Kazvin on the 19th June.

Passer hispaniolensis transcaspicus Tschusi. Spanish Sparrow.

- 1 ? Abadan, sea level. December.
This bird had been caught accidentally in a trap.

Passer montanus subsp.? Tree Sparrow.

Seen by Mr. Brotherston at Kazvin on July 25.

Emberiza citrinella erythrogenys C. L. Brehm. Yellow Bunting.

- 1 ♀ Near Gulhek. Feb. 17.
2 ♂ ♀ Near Tehran. Jan.
1 ? Lar valley: near Deli Chai. Fat. Sex undetermined. July 13.
1 ♀ Lar valley: safid-âb: in grass, 7,000 ft. Aug. 1.
The yellow bunting is very common in spring at and near Tehran, usually in flocks among the growing wheat and barley. I also saw a good many in the Lar valley at the end of July.

Emberiza hortulana Linnaeus. Ortolan Bunting.

- 1 ? Near Tehran. March.
The ortolan bunting is seen near Tehran occasionally in spring: I saw one at Surkh Hissar, 10 miles east of Tehran, early in March.

Emberiza melanocephala Scopoli. Black-headed Bunting.

- 1 ♂ Surkh Hissar, 10 miles east of Tehran. April 30.
The black-headed buntings come rather later than the yellow buntings and are often in large flocks, feeding in the wheat and barley. Mr. Brotherston saw some at Kazvin on the 20th June.

Ammomanes deserti fraterculus Tristram. Desert Lark.

- 1 ? Isfahan, 5,500 ft.: near Siah-kuh. Sept. 18.

Galerida cristata subsp.? Crested Lark.

- 1 ♂ Near Gulhek. Feb. 17.
Crested larks were always common on the plains round Tehran. On coming back from the high passes of the Lar valley I noticed the first crested lark at Lârak, about 6,000 ft.: the bird does not seem to go higher than that. I saw some at Bushire in December.

Alaemon alaudipes subsp. Bifasciated Lark.

I saw this bird at Huleila, on Bushire island, on Dec. 16. It was on the sea-shore.

Otocorys alpestris albigula Bonaparte. Shore Lark.

1 ♀ Sultanabad near Tehran: Feb. 5.

I saw a flock of about 30 of these birds near Jajarud in the high ground, on snow, at about 6,000 ft., on March 1st. During the winter a heavy fall of snow usually drives some of them to seek their food quite close to Tehran: I saw some just north of the town in February.

Otocorys alpestris penicillata (Gould). Shore Lark.

1 ♀ Lar valley: near Deli Chai: solitary: shot in evening: July 10.

1 ? ♀ juv. near Sefid-áb in Lar valley: one of a party of four: July 13.

1 ♂ near Deli Chai camp. Organs small; solitary. July 31.

All these three specimens were from the Lar valley: the bird did not appear to be common but it looked as if it was breeding there, or very near there in one of the high valleys on the Caspian side of the watershed. Buxton points out that the race *penicillata* occurs as far south as Isfahan: evidently therefore this race and *albigula* overlap.

Anthus pratensis (Linnaeus). Meadow Pipit.

1 ♀ Lar valley: near Deli Chai. July 10.

This bird was shot in bushes. Organs undeveloped. I have notes of the bird at Bushire on December 15th.

Anthus sordidus? decaptus Meinertzhagen. Brown Rock Pipit, or Plain Pipit.

1 ♀ near Deli Chai camp in Lar valley found on nest. July 12.

This bird had a well-concealed nest in a clump of *achillea* in a level part of the valley: the nest had three eggs, which I secured. I did not see the mate. The female ran some way when sent off the nest, and in appearance reminded me of a bifasciated lark, only smaller. It is therefore certain that this bird breeds in the Lar valley in July. I have not found any reference to this bird as far north as the Elburz mountains: Blanford mentioned one obtained in April 50 miles north of Isfahan, at 5,000 ft. We now know that it breeds at 7,000 ft. considerably further north.

Anthus trivialis trivialis (Linnaeus). Tree Pipit.

Mr. Brotherston saw one at Ardekan on the 21st January.

Motacilla flava subsp. Blue-headed Wagtail.

1 ♂ Lar valley: Deli Chai. juv. July 9. organs very small.

Motacilla flava feldegg Michahelles. Black-headed Wagtail.

I saw two of these birds in the Lar valley between Chihil Cheshmeh and Safid-áb on July 13th, and shot them but unfortunately did not manage to save their skins. They were in very good feather, the yellow breast being of a beautiful canary shade, contrasting with the jet-black head. I watched a few more flitting about on bushes.

Motacilla alba persica Blanford. White Wagtail.

1 ♂ Gulhek. March 15.

The white wagtail is common round Tehran especially in the spring. I saw some at Bushire on the 15th December, and Mr. Brotherston saw some between Ahwaz and Tehran on the 12th June.

Sitta neumayer rupicola Blanford. Lesser Rock Nuthatch.

1 ? Lar valley: Chihil Cheshmeh: near spring: July 13.

Another one looking just the same was seen on August 1st near the Divasi-áb in the Lar valley, at about 10,000 ft.: and another at Puloor (about 5,500 ft.) on July 16.

Sitta europea persica Witherby. Nuthatch.

1 ? Pir-i-Zan pass, 60 miles w. of Shiraz: creeping about branches of bushes.

I also have notes of nuthatches near Tehran on two occasions: (1) February 28th at the village of To-chal east of Tehran on the old Khorasan road, and (2) March 1st, a company of 12 on the high ground at Jaja-rud: but these were probably *S. tephronota*. I also saw one on a tree at Noglabar, on the road to Resht on the borders of Gilan, on March 13th.

Parus major blanfordi Prazak. Great Tit.

1 ? Tehran. January.

1 ? near Tehran. February 28.

The great tit is very common in the trees of Tehran from January to March. One sees it throughout the year also: I have records of it at Gulhek in July. They are in very good feather in the middle of March. Mr. Brotherston noted one at Kazvin on the 19th June.

Remiz pendulinus (Linnaeus). Penduline Tit.

I never saw this bird, but its nests were hanging from the tips of poplar branches in what is called the 'bisheh' on the Julfa side of the river at Isfahan.

Regulus ignicapillus ignicapillus (Temminck). Firecrest.

I saw a firecrest early in March at Surkh Hissar, 10 miles east of Tehran: it was flitting about the tops of elm trees and was just distinguishable among the swelling elm buds. I shot one on the 5th March but the impact of the shot blew it to pieces.

Lanius collurio Linnaeus. Red-backed Shrike.

1 ♂ Surkh Hissar, 10 m. east of Tehran. April 30.

1 ♂ Lar valley. Near Safid-áb confluence with Lar river: Testes fairly large. August 1.

This bird was not common near Tehran.

Pycnonotus leucotis mesopotamiae Ticehurst. White-eared Bulbul.

I saw and heard this bird at Bushire on the 15th December: and also saw an albino in a cage there. I also saw the bird at Ahwaz on the 17th February.

Muscicapa striata neumanni Poche. Spotted Flycatcher.

1 ♀ Surkh Hissar, 10 m. E. of Tehran. May 7.

Spotted flycatchers were in the gardens round Tehran from about April 30th to May 10th.

Ficedula hypoleuca semitorquata (Homeyer). Pied Flycatcher.

1 ♂ Chal-Harz, 10 miles north of Tehran. March 15.

I also saw one at Gulhek on the 13th March, and Mr. Brotherston saw one at Kazvin on the 20th June.

Agrobates galactotes (Temminck). Rufous Warbler.

Mr. Brotherston saw one at Kazvin on the 21st June.

Turdus ericetorum philomelos Brehm. Song-Thrush.

1 ♂ Tehran Legation. January 18.

Song-thrushes are fairly common at Tehran from January to March: I saw a young one at Gulhek on the 24th March. Mr. Brotherston saw one at Ardekan on the 9th January.

Turdus merula aterrimus (Madarasz). Blackbird.

1 ♂ Tehran Legation. January 18.

Blackbirds are common, and vociferous, in the gardens round Tehran from the middle of January to the end of March: on the 28th March they were singing well. I saw one on the lawn at Gulhek on the 10th June. I also noted them at Ahwaz on the 17th February.

Turdus ruficollis atrigularis Temminck. Black-throated Thrush.

1 ♂ Gulhek. March 2.
 1 ♀ Surkh Hissar, 10 m. E. of Tehran. March 14.
 I have notes of this very common bird round Tehran from the 11th January to the 14th March. The amount of black below the chin varies considerably.

Monticola saxatilis (Linnaeus). Rock Thrush.

1 ♂ Deli-Chai camp in Lar valley. Full plumage. July 12.
 1 ♂ Chihil Cheshmeh, Lar valley. juv. August 2.
 1 ♂ Near the same: Juv. August 6.
 This was one of the first birds I noticed when I entered the main valley on July 27th: the birds I saw then were mostly youngsters just beginning to fly. From then until Aug. 9th, when I left the valley, I frequently heard the sweet notes of their call, resembling that of the song-thrush. The third specimen was taken by hand, unable to fly. The bird evidently breeds in the valley, in July and early August.

Oenanthe deserti subsp? Desert Wheatear.

I saw one on the golf-course at Bushire on the 14th December.

Oenanthe finschi barnesi (Oates). Arabian Wheatear.

1 ? Jajarud: Kamard valley. January 5.
 I also saw this bird between Tabas and Robat-i-Khan on the road to Yezd on the 9th October. The local inhabitants at Jajarud told me that the bird was well known and called by them *mishka*.

Oenanthe leucomela leucomela (Pallas). Eastern Pied Wheatear.

1 ? Isfahan: desert south of town. juv. September 18.

Oenanthe oenanthe oenanthe (Linnaeus). Common Wheatear.

1 ♂ Lar valley, near Chihil Cheshmeh, in the valley leading south to Siah-palás. July 29. Testes small.
 I saw the common wheatear again in the Lar valley on the 2nd August. Mr. Brotherston saw it at Kazvin on the 18th June.

Oenanthe chrysopygia (De Filippi). Red-rumped Wheatear.

I saw this bird on the bare hillside leading up to the Tirak pass between Mubarakabad and Lar, at about 7,500 ft., on July 27. And again on the pass above Avchek leading over the watershed into the Lar valley, at 8,000 ft., on August 12.

Saxicola rubetra noskai (Tschusi). Whinchat.

2 ♂ ♀ near Deli Chai: juv. (Lar valley) July 10.
 1 ♂ Lar valley: near Safid-ab confluence. juv. July 13.
 1 ♂ Lar valley: Safid-ab camp. August. 1.
 1 ♂ Lar valley: near Chihil Cheshmeh. August 2.
 The whinchat was very common in the valley and judging from the number of young birds it seems very probable that it breeds there about June or early July.

Phoenicurus erythronotus (Eversmann). Eversmann's Redstart.

1 ♂ Sultanatabad, near Tehran. February 5.
 1 ? Tehran. January.
 Eversmann's redstart is common in January and February in the cultivation north of Tehran. It also appeared to be breeding at Surkh Hissar, 10 miles E. of Tehran, in March, in small bushes of *Berberis*. Redstarts were breeding in clefts of rocks throughout the Lar valley, at 7,500 ft., at the end of July. I watched the birds feeding their young on several occasions. The nest was usually so far in between two huge rocks that it was impossible to get at it.

At the beginning of August redstarts were very common round the rocks near Chihil Cheshmeh in the Lar valley: their black heads and red tails, with a constant quivering motion, were very noticeable. The last date on which I saw them there was Aug. 6.

Phoenicurus ochrurus (Gmel). Black Redstart.

One was seen by Mr. Brotherston near Ardekan on December 18.

Luscinia megarhyncha africana (Fischer & Reichenow). Nightingale.

Nightingales are to be seen and heard frequently in the gardens round Tehran from the 20th January to the middle of June, when their well-known and sometimes overpowering song ceases to be heard. It is a common cage-bird and if brought up in captivity is said to sing well. On the 9th October I noticed one in the desert between Tabas and Robat-i-Khan on the road from Tabas to Yezd.

Luscinia svecica subsp.? Blue-throat.

Blue-throats were only seen by me in the Lar valley: they seem to reach it after July 16th as I saw none on that date though I was looking for them: I saw an adult in good plumage near Chihil Cheshmeh on July 30th and obtained the following specimens:

1 ♂ Chihil Cheshmeh spring: August 4.

1 ♀ same place. August 4. juv. in speckled plumage.

I saw two or three other young birds in speckled plumage: all were drinking at the spring.

Erythacus rubecula hyrcanus Blanford. Redbreast.

1 ♂ Chal-Harz, just north of Tehran. March 20.

The redbreast is not a common bird near Tehran. In December I received one shot at Abadan.

Troglodytes troglodytes hyrcanus Zarudny & Loudon. Wren.

1 ? Tehran Legation garden. January 16.

The wren was only seen by me at Tehran during the third and fourth weeks of January. The specimen shot was remarkably dark in colour.

Cinclus cinclus caucasicus Madarasz. Dipper.

1 ? Gulhek, 7 miles north of Tehran. February.

This bird is also to be seen in July and August in the Lar river, at about 7,000 ft.: and also in the Kand river near the village of Kand in March. (20 miles N. W. of Tehran).

Hirundo rustica subsp.? Swallow.

Noted at Ahwaz on the 19th February, and on the Caspian Sea, near Babul Sar, on the 5th June.

Riparia rupestris (Scopoli). Crag-Martin.

I saw some crag-martins near the Chihil Cheshmeh spring in the Lar valley on July 29th, flying about hawking after insects at mid-day. Mr. Brotherston saw some between Ahwaz and Tehran on the 12th June.

Micropus apus subsp.? Swift.

Mr. Brotherston saw some swifts between Ahwaz and Tehran on the 12th June, and I saw some at the village of Baba-Salman, 20 miles S.W. of Tehran, on the 25th June.

Micropus melba melba (Linnaeus). Alpine Swift.

An officer who knew the bird well saw some Alpine swifts at Shimshak, 20 m. N.E. of Tehran, at about 6,500 ft., on the 31st May. Mr. Brotherston saw some at Ahwaz on the 5th June.

Caprimulgus europaeus subsp.? Nightjar.

Mr. Brotherston saw one at Kazvin on August 5.

Merops apiaster Linnaeus. Bee-eater.

The common bee-eater is frequently seen round Tehran and indeed on most parts of the Persian plateau: my records from Tehran range between May 12th and September 4th. At Avcheh village at 6,500 ft. I watched a flock circling round and chasing insects on the 13th August. I saw some near Khorramábád in Luristan on the 16th April.

Merops orientalis bitudschicus Neumann. Little Green Bee-eater.

I saw the little green bee-eater at Bushire on the 14th December, in large flocks.

Upupa epops epops Linnaeus. Hoopoe.

The earliest date I have for the hoopoe at Tehran is the 20th March: in June they were nesting at Gulhek: and on the 4th August I saw five in the Lar valley, at 7,000 ft.

Coracias garrulus garrulus Linnaeus. Roller.

This bird, which breeds in the Legation gardens at Gulhek, seems to reach the plateau round Tehran early in April, and remains till the end of August at any rate. In the Lar valley over the Caspian watershed I saw none: the last place at which I saw rollers in going from Tehran to Lar was at Avcheh village, about 7,000 ft.

Coracias benghalensis benghalensis (Linnaeus). Indian Roller.

Very common at Bushire on the 12th December.

Ceryle rudis rudis (Linnaeus). Pied Kingfisher.

Mr. Brotherston saw one between Ahwaz and Tehran on the 11th June.

Dryobates syriacus syriacus (Hempr. & Ehrenberg). Syrian Pied Woodpecker.

This woodpecker is one of the commonest birds in gardens at Tehran. It nests in the British Embassy compound at Gulhek between about the 26th June and the 12th July, often in walnut trees. Mr. Brotherston saw one at Kazvin on the 13th July, and I shot two, one a youngster, on the Tang-áb pass, 60 miles south of Shiraz on the road to Firuzabad, on the 2nd May.

Cuculus canorus canorus Linnaeus. Cuckoo.

1 ♂ Deli Chai camp, in Lar valley: July 12.

This bird was hawking about for flies near the camp early in the morning and looked very like a sparrow hawk at first. Its organs were fairly well developed. The well-known call is sometimes heard at Tehran in May and June. Mr. Brotherston saw one at Kazvin on the 13th July.

Bubo bubo ruthenus Buturlin & Zhitkow. Eagle Owl.

1 ♂ Gulhek. February 1.

These large birds are most often seen in the spring at Tehran, solemnly sitting in a tall tree, often being mobbed by small birds: but the owl usually takes no notice at all. The monotonous call disturbs the slumbers of many dwellers in Tehran. On the 29th November a young one was found in the British Legation garden unable to fly: it seemed to have been damaged but I could find no sign of a broken limb. Mr. Brotherston saw one near Ardekan on the 16th December.

Carine noctua bactriana (Hutton). Little Owl.

1 ♂ Gulhek. February 2.

Occasionally seen at Tehran in the spring. On the 12th June Mr. Brotherston saw one between Ahwaz and Tehran.

Falco peregrinus subsp.? Peregrine Falcon.

One was seen by Mr. Brotherston on the 17th June at Tehran.

Falco subbuteo subbuteo Linnaeus. Hobby.

1 ♀ Qaitarieh, a garden near Gulhek. September 29.

No doubt this bird breeds in the gardens round Tehran: the one I shot was with several others in an elm tree: the local name is *Qirgi* but that name may apply to other falcons too. I saw some newly fledged hobbies at Isfahan in August, where they breed in poplar trees: and Mr. Brotherston saw some near Kazvin on the 28th July.

Falco columbarius subsp.? Merlin.

Mr. Brotherston saw a merlin at Kazvin on August 5th.

Falco tinnunculus tinnunculus Linnaeus. Kestrel.

The common kestrel nests in many gardens near Tehran in June and July.

1 ? Surkh Hissar, 10 m. east of Tehran. May 7.

They often nest on the tops of large plane trees, and the screaming of the young birds is constantly heard. Another favourite breeding place is the gardens round Eurkh Hissar. I also saw kestrels at Hulaila on Bushire island on the 16th December, and in the valleys near the Lar valley between July 28th and August 6th.

Falco naumanni naumanni Fleischer. Lesser Kestrel.

1 ♂ Gulhek. March 15.

I also saw this bird on the shore of the Caspian near Rámsar in April.

Falco vespertinus vespertinus Linnaeus. Red-footed Falcon.

Mr. Brotherston saw one at Kazvin on the 18th June.

Buteo rufinus rufinus (Cretzschmar). Long-legged Buzzard.

1 ? Shah Abdul Azim, just south of Tehran. January.

This bird is sometimes seen north of Tehran during the summer.

Accipiter nisus nisus (Linnaeus). Sparrow-Hawk.

1 ♂ near Gulhek. February 19.

I did not find this bird common round Tehran. Mr. Brotherston saw one at Kazvin on the 30th July.

Milvus migrans migrans (Boddaert). Black Kite.

1 ? near Gulhek. January 2.

This bird is not uncommon around the foothills north of Tehran. I found a young one in the Legation at Gulhek on July 15. I also saw some on the Caspian foreshore near Babul-sar (Meshed-i-Sar) on May 30th. Mr. Brotherston saw some between Ahwaz and Tehran on the 12th June. Many were to be seen round the Chihil Cheshmeh camp in the Lar valley on August 2nd: at a height of 7,000 ft.

Pandion haliaëtus (Linnaeus). Osprey.

I saw an osprey fishing in the Lar river, at an altitude of 7,000 ft. on July 13th: and another fishing in the Caspian sea on the 4th June.

Gypaëtus barbatus subsp. Bearded Vulture.

Seen by Mr. Brotherston at Kazvin on August 5th. I sometimes saw them in the air near Tehran during the summer.

Neophron percnopterus (Linnaeus). Egyptian Vulture.

Often seen round Tehran, especially in the winter. Mr. Brotherston saw one at Ahwaz on the 6th June.

Gyps fulvus fulvus (Hablizl). Griffon Vulture.

These huge birds no doubt breed in the Elburz range, especially in the high mountains round Demavend: colonies of them can be seen in that neighbourhood occasionally. On the 16th July I saw about 30 sated birds round a corpse near the Deli Chai confluence with the Lar river, at 7,000 ft. Mr. Brotherston saw some near Tehran on the 17th June: I have also the three following records of my own: 9th December: south of Tehran: a few feeding on a corpse; 6th October: between Zahidan (Duzdab) and Shusp; and 12th October: near Qum, 90 miles south of Tehran.

Aegypius monachus (Linnaeus). Black or Cinereous Vulture.

I saw one of these birds with other vultures round a dead mule near Qum on October 12th. I also kept one for some time in the Legation compound alive, from the 13th October.

Ciconia ciconia (Linnaeus). White Stork.

Col. Day, R. E., informed me that a colony of storks were nesting at Sar-i-Pul, near Kerind, on March 4th: this seems early. Mr. Brotherston saw some between Ahwaz and Tehran on June 12th: and they are not uncommon in villages in Garrús and Azarbáiján, usually nesting on some ruined place in the middle of the village. The Persians call them *Hajji Lak-lak*.

Plegadis falcinellus (Linnaeus). Glossy Ibis.

1 ♂ Village of Fardis in Veramine: 12 m. E. of Tehran. September 30.
This was the only time I saw this bird in Persia.

Ardea cinerea cinerea Linnaeus. Grey Heron.

The common heron was often to be seen round Tehran: I skinned one shot at Veramine, 15 miles E. of Tehran, on the 7th October but did not keep the skin. I saw some at Bushire on the 12th December and Mr. Brotherston saw some at Kazvin on the 10th July.

On the 6th June I saw a number at the estuary of the Chalus river on the Caspian Sea: and on the 13th July one was fishing in the Lar river, much to the annoyance of trout-fishermen near by.

Ardea purpurea purpurea Linnaeus. Purple Heron.

1 ♂ Tehran Embassy. April 20th.
This bird was shot while fishing in one of the ambassador's ponds for goldfish.

Ixobrychus minutus minutus (Linnaeus). Little Bittern.

1 ♂ Tehran embassy. April 13th.
This little heron was also caught while extracting the ambassador's goldfish from one of his ponds. Its stomach when skinned, however, was empty.

Botaurus stellaris stellaris (Linnaeus). Bittern.

The bittern is said to frequent damp places in the district of Veramine, some 20 miles to the east of Tehran. I saw a carcass hung up in a shop at Tehran on the 6th December: the bird was to be sold for eating, and came from Veramine.

Phoenicopterus ruber antiquorum Temminck. Flamingo.

I saw a large flock in the sea S.E. of Bahrein island on the 17th December: I also have a note of flamingoes seen on Lake Rezaiyeh (formerly called Urumia) in the autumn.

Anser sp. Goose.

On March 14th a good many inhabitants of Tehran heard the honking of many gaggles of geese overhead during the night; some had also been heard on previous nights.

Tadorna tadorna (Linnaeus). Sheldrake.

1 ? Abadan: shot in November.

Casarca ferruginea (Pallas). Ruddy Sheldrake.

Mr. Brotherston reports seeing one near Ardekan on January 13.

Anas strepera Linnaeus. Gadwall.

Mr. Brotherston saw one at Ardekan on the 18th January.

Anas angustirostris Ménétries. Marbled Duck.

1 ? near Tehran. January 1.

Querquedula crecca crecca (Linnaeus). Teal.

Mr. Brotherston saw some at Ardekan on the 23rd January, and they are very common round Tehran in the winter.

Spetula tlypeata (Linnaeus). Shoveller.

1 ♀ near Robat Kerim, 40 m. S.W. of Tehran. October 31.

Nyroca ferina ferina (Linnaeus). Pochard.

1 ♀ near Tehran. January 1.

Mergus albellus Linnaeus. Smew.

1 ? near Abadan. November.

Twenty-five tiny fish were in the gullet of this bird.

Phalacrocorax carbo sinensis (Shaw & Nodder). Cormorant.

1 ♂ near Tehran. February 23. In breeding plumage with white patches on the flanks. I saw several in Bandar Abbas and Bushire harbours in December, and on the Caspian Sea in June. It is curious that cormorants sometimes perch in the tall plane trees of the British Embassy compound: I saw them doing so in March.

Phalacrocorax pygmaeus (Pallas). Pigmy Cormorant.

1 ? near Tehran: shot on a pool in a garden near the town: February.

I suppose this bird was a stray from Gilan and the Caspian region.

Columba livia gaddi Zarudny & Loudon. Rock Pigeon.

1 ? Kamard near Jaja-rud.

This is the resident race which is very common all round Tehran, breeding in *qand* holes and met with in almost every village.

Streptopelia turtur arenicola (Hartert). Turtle-dove.

1 ♂ Chal-harz, just north of Tehran. March.

1 ♂ Surkh Hissar, 10 m. E. of Tehran. May 14.

The second bird was apparently consorting with rosy pastors. Mr. Brotherston saw some turtle doves at Kazvin on the 5th August.

Pterocles orientalis (Linnaeus). Black-bellied or Imperial Sand-Grouse.

2 ♂ ♀ near Tehran. December 27.

These birds are fairly common in the winter: they seem to like feeding on or near to main roads. I saw a flock of about 20 near Sultanabad on the 9th December.

Charadrius alexandrinus alexandrinus Linnaeus. Kentish Plover.

I saw Kentish plover at Huleila, on Bushire island, on the 16th December: and also on the banks of the Lar river, at 7,000 ft., on the 29th July.

Charadrius dubius curonicus Gmelie. Little Ringed Plover.

I saw the little ringed-plover on the 29th July in the Lar Valley near Chihil Cheshmeh, in the bed of the river, with newly fledged chicks: chicks are hatched by July 14th. The bird is common on the Lar at that time, and its plaintive note is very frequently heard.

Erolia minuta (Leisler). Little Stint.

Seen at Dastak and Hulailah on Bushire island, 12th and 16th December.

Tringa totanus subsp. Redshank.

Seen at Dastak and Hulailah on Bushire island, 12th and 16th December.

Tringa ochropus ochropus Linnaeus. Green Sandpiper.

Seen in the Lar valley by the river Lar, and also by its tributary the Safid-áb, on the 29th July.

Vanellus vanellus (Linnaeus). Lapwing or Peewit

1 ♀ near Tehrân. January 1.

The lapwing is fairly common on the plateau round Tehran in January and February. I saw one near Ahwaz from the railway, on the 17th February.

Chettusia leucura (Lichtenstein). White-tailed Plover.

I saw this bird at Hulailah, on Bushire island, on December 16th: and another at Abadan in February.

Scelopax rusticola rusticola Linnaeus. Woodcock.

1 ♀ Gulhek, 7 miles N. of Tehran. December 26.

Woodcock frequent the gardens north of Tehran from about the end of November: they are called in Persia usually *abyá*. I hear from a sportsman at Burujird that woodcock arrive there in November and December after the first frost: the birds come very thin but become fatter: Burujird seems to be a migrating centre for them.

Capella gallinago gallinago (Linnaeus). Snipe.

Snipe are to be found to the south and south-west of Tehran during the winter: a sportsman living at Kermanshah says they breed there.

Hydroprogne caspia (Pallas). Caspian Tern.

I saw a Caspian tern on the shore at Bushire on the 17th December.

Sterna albirostris subsp. Little Tern.

Mr. Brotherston saw a little tern at Ahwaz on the 6th June.

Chlamydotis undulata macqueeni (Gray). Houbara Bustard.

I saw a pair between Abadeh and Yezd-i-Khast on the 5th May: and Mr. Brotherston noticed one near Nain on the 2nd February.

Fulica atra atra Linnaeus. Coot.

Mr. Brotherston saw one between Ahwaz and Tehran on the 10th June.

Crex crex (Linnaeus). Corn-crake.

A corn-crake was found alive and kept alive for several days at the British Legation, Tehran: from July 12.

Tetraogallus caspius caspius (Gmelin). Caspian Snow-Partridge.

1 ♀ Elburz slopes north of Tehran: at 9,000 ft. February 21.

Alectoris graeca caucasica Sushkin. Chukar or Rock-Partridge.

1 ♀ Tochal mountains, about 15 m. north of Tehran, 7,000 ft. June 11th.

Alectoris graeca koroviakovi (Zarudny). Chukar or Rock-Partridge.

1 ♂ ? Kamard valley, near Jajarud, 15 miles N.E. of Tehran. January.

These two birds were within a few miles of one another and it seems strange that they should belong to two separate races.

Ammoperdix griseogularis griseogularis (Brandt). Seesee Partridge.

2 ♂ ♀ 20 miles S.E. of Tehran. December 26.

This seems to be the race inhabiting the Elburz mountains and the vicinity of Tehran. Around Shiraz I think the bird is different and must be *A. g. termouleni*. Zar & Loudon. I saw a family party of parents and several newly hatched chicks on the Tirak pass, between Mubarakabad and the Lar valley, on the 28th July.

Perdix perdix canescens Buturlin. Common Partridge.

1 15 miles E. of Tehran. Dec. 6. Fairly common in winter from here northward. The local name is *chil* or *kabk-i-chil*. It is a distinctly pale race.

Coturnix coturnix coturnix (Linnaeus). Quail.

1 ♂ near Safid-Ab in the Lar valley. July 13.

I shot two quail but only found one: they were in the lush grass in an open space watered by an overflow of water from the river. 7,000 ft. A sportsman informs me that quail breed at Kermanshah and at Hamadan.

Phasianus colchicus talyschensis Lorenz. Pheasant.

These birds are resident in Gilan and Mazanderan, and are often sent up to Tehran for sale from these provinces. They vary in colour a great deal. The Persian word for them is *Qarqadvul*, or in Gilan *turing*.

THE MOVEMENTS OF THE ROSY PASTOR IN INDIA

[*Pastor roseus* (L.)]

BY

HUMAYUN ABDULALI

(With a map)

The Rosy Pastor is well known as a non-breeding winter visitor to India and as a two-way passage migrant in the N.W. and in the Punjab. It enters and leaves India on a restricted front between the foot of the Himalayas and Central Baluchistan, travels over the high ground of North Baluchistan, Central and Northern Afghanistan and Persian Khorasan to the south-east corner of the Caspian Sea. Its breeding grounds lie in Russian Turkestan and westward to Turkey and beyond in S.E. Europe, normally as far west as Hungary. Beyond Indian limits it provides one of the most remarkable instances of east to west migration known among birds.

An attempt to determine its status and movements in the rest of India revealed a glaring paucity of information, and a circular inquiry was published in the *Journal* (Vol. 45, p. 228) as well as in the military news sheet *Contact* in an effort to collate fresh